1:Du Bois E-5 (1938-1939) 1944
OFS Alor OFS

686 orings. The case of hard dealing in connection with a debt mentioned
627 on page 67, which led to the theft of a child and from there to the
taking of a head, is an illustration of such a situation. Refusal to meet
obligations may also lead to threats of burning the debtor's house. In
about 1927 Padara the Leper set fire to Malimmi's house because Mal-
imni refused to pay him a moko worth seventeen dollars and fifty cents.
The whole village burned to the ground, and in addition to the destruc-
tion of property through fire there was wholesale pilfering of chickens,
corn, rice, and piglets in the course of the confusion. Perhaps one of the
best indexes of human and property relationships in Atimelang is that
such disasters as a fire are occasions for pilfering by the very people
who come to assist. In still another case financial hard dealing and insult
between brothers precipitated a murder. It is referred to in passing in
both Tilapedo's and Kolimani's autobiographies. For the light it throws
on a number of facets of Atimelang temperament it is worth giving
here in detail.

578 Langmai owed a debt to Fanpemi, his young unmarried cousin, and
627 Fanpemi came one evening to dun him. Langmai did not invite him
686 to enter the house and eat. He added insult to injury by referring to
Fanpemi's unmarried status and by dilating on the pleasures he himself
had in sleeping with his own wife. Fanpemi sulked all night on the
verandah below the house. The next morning Langmai and his wife
left the house without paying any attention to Fanpemi, who was by
then in a murderous mood. The wife's younger sister stayed behind to
care for the children. In the course of the morning she went off to fetch
water. Fanpemi waylaid her and cut her throat. He then ran off to a
village so distant that it was not considered practicable to follow him.

Berkama, an uncle of Fanpemi, feared retribution and left for a
near-by village. The dead girl's kin sent word that if he stayed away
they would consider it a sign that he approved of his nephew's act.
Berkama feared this was a ruse to lure him back to Atimelang in order
to murder him, but finally when his wife's powerful cousin offered to
take him and his family under personal protection, he consented to re-
turn. The matter blew over for the time being.

684 Meanwhile the daughter of Berkama's sister married a man from
578 Manetsi whose brother too was married to an Atimelang woman. This
627 other Atimelang woman ran away from her husband, lived with another
man in the vicinity, and finally returned to her own village.

One day Berkama's sister, mother of the first girl married in Manetsi,
went to visit her daughter, accompanied by her nephew, the twelve-
year-old son of Berkama. The deserted husband shot the child simply